



Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group
Meeting Minutes
June 17, 2009

Summary

Epidemiology Work Group Members in Attendance (14):

Phillip Stevenson, Chair (Arizona Criminal Justice Commission)

Wendy Wolfersteig (Arizona State University)

Steve Gendler (Arizona Department of Public Safety)

Gita Bewtra, proxy for Gowri Shetty (Arizona Department of Health Services)—via conference call

Richard Porter (Arizona Department of Health Services)

Alf Olson, proxy for Michael Dolny (Arizona Department of Corrections)

Katherine Guffey (Arizona Department of Economic Security)—via conference call

Jody Sekerak (Indian Health Services)—via conference call

Meena Shahi (Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board, First Things First)

Catherine Osborn (Arizona Department of Education)

Michael Sheldon, proxy for Emma Kibisu (Arizona Department of Health Services, Division of Behavioral Health Services)

David Choate, proxy for Charles Katz (Arizona State University)

Zeenat Mahal (Inter Tribal Council of Arizona)—via conference call

Michelle Anderson (Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections)—via conference call

Epidemiology Work Group Members Absent (2)

Amy Stuart (Administrative Office of the Courts)

Dennis Embry (Paxis Institute, Inc.)

Governor's Office Staff (1)

Jeanne Blackburn (GOCYF, DSAP)

Public (4):

Jamie Smith (Arizona Department of Health Services)

Alana Shacter (Arizona Department of Health Services)

Michelle Neitch (Arizona Criminal Justice Commission)

Sgt. Gail Spore (Arizona Department of Public Safety)



Call to Order was made by **Phillip Stevenson** at 1:09 p.m. after noting that a quorum was present.

Welcome and Introductions

Phillip Stevenson asked the attendees and guests present to introduce themselves and their respective agency/group.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Stevenson referred attendees to the May 2009 meeting minutes and asked attendees to review them for any errors. **Wendy Wolfersteig** noted minor typos. **Richard Porter** motioned to approve the minutes with the noted corrections; **David Choate** seconded the motion. The motion passed with no objections.

Announcements

- **Mr. Stevenson** called for announcements.
 - **Meena Shahi** reminded attendees that Requests for Grant Applications (RFGAs) can be found on the First Things First website.

Southwest Interdisciplinary Research Center (SIRC) Recovery Grant Update

- **Wendy Wolfersteig** reported on the proposal written by the Southwest Interdisciplinary Research Center (SIRC) for Recovery Act (ARRA) monies available to National Institutes of Health (NIH) Centers of Excellence.
 - The proposal has been submitted and notification of grant award is expected by late September.
 - **Zeenat Mahal** asked about the data sources to be used in the research to determine the representation of Native American youth in the study.
 - **Wendy Wolfersteig** responded that the Arizona Youth Survey sample is being used and is approximately six percent Native American.

Emerging Issues Subcommittee Update

- **David Choate** updated the group on the progress of the Emerging Issues Subcommittee, including the Co-Occurring Spotlight Report (3rd quarter project), the School Resource Officer (SRO) Canary Survey (4th quarter project), and the current Life Path Project:
 - The narrative for the Life Path Project is being edited based upon feedback from the Emerging Issues Subcommittee group members after they were requested for their recommendations based upon the information provided in the report. The report will be expanded to include a Next Steps section as well as a piece on Recommendations.
 - The focus of the current Spotlight Report is co-occurring disorders. **Mr. Choate** indicated that the report will examine co-occurring disorders among detained youth as well as among incarcerated adults. Data will be supplied by the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections and the Arizona Department of Corrections.
 - Data from the School Resource Officer Survey will inform a 4th quarter School Resource Officer Spotlight Report.



- **Phillip Stevenson** recommended that a future report focus on heroin based on discussions among members of the Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership.

Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership (ASAP) Update

- **Phillip Stevenson** updated the group on the Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership.
 - ASAP met on June 3, 2009 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. in the 1st Floor Conference Room of the Executive Tower at 1700 W. Washington Street, Suite 101, Phoenix, AZ 85007.
 - **Phillip Stevenson** updated the ASAP members at the meeting on the present and future work of the Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group.

2009 Substance Abuse Epidemiology Profile

- **Jeanne Blackburn** updated the group on the status of the 2009 *Substance Abuse Epidemiology Profile*, noting that data are still being gathered for the Profile and the contract for Bach Harrison's services is being drafted.

Next Project

- **Phillip Stevenson** began a conversation among the group members regarding the next project that the group should take on, based upon the needs of ASAP and the 2008 Executive Action Briefing (EAB) on Data-Driven Policy Decisions.
 - **Meena Shahi** discussed a potential report examining the impact of the recession on the loss of social service programs and substance abuse treatment services to high-needs populations, including the loss of funds for School Resource Officers, the Families F.I.R.S.T. Program, etc.
 - **Phillip Stevenson** and **Jeanne Blackburn** reminded the group that the *Snapshot* document needs to be completed for 2009 after the *Substance Abuse Epidemiology Profile* is completed and the *Substance Abuse Treatment Services Capacity Report* also needs to be updated based on new information collected by the Arizona Department of Health Services, Division of Behavioral Health Services (network inventory).
 - Also discussed was the creation of a website, using feedback from community coalitions/chairs, which would disseminate the data from the *Substance Abuse Epidemiology Profile* in a more user-friendly manner for use by coalitions, policy makers and other interested parties.
 - The group members decided to think about the topics raised and make a decision at the July meeting.

Call to Public

A call to the public was made, with no comments from the guests in attendance.

Adjourn at 3:00 p.m. after **Wendy Wolfersteig** motioned to adjourn, a motion seconded by **Meena Shahi**, with a reminder that the next meeting will be held at the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission building at 1110 West Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85007.

Minutes submitted by Jeanne Blackburn (GOCYF, DSAP).